

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

HUNTER, Duncan L. (Republican)
Representative, 52nd District, California
Elected 1980 to 97th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Riverside, California - 31 May 1948

Home: El Cajon, California

Marital Status: Married (Lynne) - 2 children

Religion: Baptist

Education: Univ of Montana, 1966-67; Univ. of Calif, Santa Barbara, 1967-68; Western State Univ College of Law, B.S.L., 1976; J.D., 1976

Military: Army, 1969-71; Bronze Star; flew 25 helicopter combat assaults in Vietnam

Profession: Lawyer

Political: Reelected in 2000 with 64% of the vote and in 2002 with 70%.

Rep Hunter, a conservative, is hawkish on defense. Favors permissive interpretation of the ABM Treaty and is one of the House's most vocal proponents for national missile defense.

Opposed the USAF plan to retire about 1/3 of its B-52 fleet and supports the F-22 program.

In the 105th Congress, resigned in Feb97 from the Veterans' Committee. In FY99 DoD Auth House Report, joined nine others with additional view expressing concern about damage to national security by military technology transfer with People's Republic of China. (HRpt 105-532, 12May98) Addressed readiness issue by discussing Air Force mission capable rates and pilot shortage.

In the 106th Congress, said Administration's defense budget increase was only about half as large as what was needed for high-priority programs. (CQ, 18Jan99) During floor debate on the FY00 Defense Auth Bill, discussed modernizing the Air Reserve Components and acquiring additional C-17s; said real support for the troops should be that they get the best and latest equipment like the B-1 or B-2, instead of B-52. (CR, 10Jun99).) In Oct 99 named to Special Oversight Panel on Dept of Energy Reorganization to work with the Administration on the timely and effective implementation of the DoE proposals mandated by the FY00 National Defense Auth Act. Expressed concern that Kosovo Supplemental Funding Bill would not completely fill shortages of Air Launched Cruise Missiles. (Defense Daily, 20Oct99) After series of articles on military aircraft accidents and aviation safety, called for HASC hearings and a complete review of the military aviation program. (Dayton Daily News, 11 & 20Dec99)

In the 107th Congress, expressed strong support for the defense budget saying "we are starting to turn the corner from some very tragic days of the past 10 years." Drew attention to shortages in ammo and "cannibalization of front line fighters, such as F-15s, F-15Es, and F-16s. Noted there was an 800-pilot shortage in the Air Force and other services. Believed there was a need for an additional \$50 billion in the defense budget. Opposed the Markey (D-MA) amendment that sought to prohibit the research and development of a nuclear earth penetrator weapon. Supports a space-based weapons system and opposed the ABM Treaty. Expressed support for the "concurrent receipt" language in the House DOD auth bill, which permits receipt of service-related disability pay and military retirement pay without the dollar-for-dollar offset.

Additional: Was a member of the no longer active Stealth Caucus

AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES – Chairman.